

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1871: Alerina

Alerina was quite surprised to see a human enter her territory. Well, this couldn't truly be considered her territory as she too had just stepped into it. By coincidence, the two of them had entered at near the same time from adjacent directions. They had hardly taken a step when they noticed one another and immediately changed their focus.

What surprised her even more, though, was that despite seeing her, this human wasn't afraid. This was definitely new to her. Let alone humans, even members of other races who saw her would be very afraid. This wasn't because she looked like a monster or anything, it was quite the opposite, in fact. The reason was because much like the other races, her talent had very strong physical signs.

Alerina was all face just like the other members of her race. She looked like a sculptor that had had the back half of her head removed, but rather than making her look weird, with the flowing cloud that made up her brain and seemingly also her hair, not to mention the golden runes floating within it, it made her look like an ethereal deity untouched by mortality.

The features of her face were especially gentle, the only sharpness coming from her small nose. The curves of her cheeks and jaw were all perfect and feminine in an almost exaggerated way, making her look like the representation of what a perfect woman might be.

Her eyes reflected the Cloud Figure that flowed behind her, dancing with golden runes as well. Much like the rest of her race, it made her look like a hollowed mask being carried by a tail of ethereal clouds... if said mask was of a goddess descended from above, that is.

Alerina's cherry lips curled, her Cloud Figure sparkling like twinkling stars. Usually when she did this, most wouldn't be able to stand looking at her anymore and would turn away in either embarrassment or a feeling of unworthiness, but Leonel simply continued to look at her without a word, his expression not giving much away.

He had seen many beauties before, this wasn't enough to move him. Plus, Alerina relied much more on her aura and disposition to pressure him, which was even more fool's gold. If she thought such a thing would work, there was only disappointment in store for her.

"You're an interesting human," Alerina said lightly.

"Someone else told me that before."

"Oh? And where are they now."

"Since I'm here, isn't it obvious?"

Alerina released a bell-like laughter. "What an arrogant man."

Leonel's own lip curled into a sneer. He had heard that one too, but he didn't feel like repeating himself.

With a glance at Alerina's spear, he could tell that she had cleared between 20 and 30 regions. This was a far cry from his own almost 90, but given his advantages in this matter, Alerina was definitely very impressive, and that was especially so since she had done it without a special spear like his own.

Even so, judging by the armor that coated her voluptuous body, although she hadn't gained a specialty spear, she had definitely received other rewards.

"Let me see if you have skills warranting that arrogance."

Alerina took a step forward and charged, but to her surprise, before she could properly build up momentum, she was interrupted.

Leonel activated Knight's Charge and crossed the distance to her even faster than what she could muster, lancing his spear forward and aiming right for her chest plate without regard for her gender in the slightest.

Alerina's gaze narrowed. Her armor released a light glow and a pulse of light jetted outward with her as the center. Leonel immediately found the speed and power of his spear cut in half.

CLANG!

Taking advantage, Alerina deflected Leonel's blade, sliding her own along its underside and snaking it toward Leonel's throat. It was clear that she was

exceptionally skilled, and she had gained quite a bit of practice using her armor as well. But what she didn't expect was Leonel's nonchalant response.

Rather than panicking, Leonel slightly shifted the trajectory of his spear, not fighting back against Alerina's blow, but rather deflecting his own spear even further upward. Then, he activated Knight's Charge once again, this time for a short distance.

His feet shifted and he suddenly covered a two feet distance in the blink of an eye, almost as though he had just teleported there.

Alerina's spear, which had been aimed for Leonel's throat, was found to be off course due to Leonel's slight adjustment and it barely slid by and over his shoulder by a centimeter or two.

BANG!

Alerina suffered a solid knee to her torso.

Leonel had used the momentum of Knight's Charge to not only dodge, but to also gather up strength for this attack, and the results were devastating.

Alerina, caught off guard, had all the wind in her body knocked out, a mouthful of blood flying from her soft cherry lips as she was sent flying backward like a cannonball.

Leonel shifted his lance-like spear again and activated Knight's Charge once more, closing the distance between himself and Alerina in a blink.

Alerina, despite being disoriented, reacted quickly, activating her armor's ability once more and half Leonel's strength and speed.

But her timing this time was off. Leonel's Knight's charge stopped just outside the range of the ripple of life before he activated Knight's Charge again and swung down with a vicious momentum.

BANG!

Alerina coughed out another mouthful of blood, her inner organs rattling. It was only now she realized that Leonel's strength and raw speed were so much greater than her own. Just how many Beast Crystals had he swallowed

until now? If not for her armor, she would have already been severely injured beyond the point of continuing in this tribulation.

She couldn't believe that she was losing so sound to a human.

Leonel landed above Alerina, his spear glowing with a fierce light as he pierced downward.

"One spear to connect the earth and skies."

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Chapter 1872: Awakening

Compared to the last time Leonel had used this strike, it was countless times more powerful, not only because of the spear he was using, but also because his comprehension of Spear Force was far deeper.

Alerina saw the light of death, a completely contradictory concept. It was as though Leonel was gracing her with it rather than throwing her into an abyssal hell of no return. She never thought that she would die in this way, she hadn't even brought out her full strength...

However, just when she thought she would die, Leonel's blade came to a sudden stop right above her face.

Their eyes met and he pulled back, leaping out from the pit he had created when he first smashed her into the ground and landing at its ledge.

Alerina was immediately confused. Why had Leonel spared her? Could it be because she was a woman? This both made her somewhat angry but also uncomfortable at the same time.

She wasn't an ungrateful person, but she also wouldn't sell her dignity for her life either.

"Get up," Leonel's cold voice suddenly knocked her out of her fantasies. Any thought she had of Leonel suddenly falling in love with her seemed to have been thrown out of the window. That wasn't the voice of a man who was enraptured with her and her appearance at all.

Alerina had already been standing to begin with, she had no idea what was going on so she had already been ready to keep fighting. But something about the sound of Leonel's voice and his gaze made her feel a combination of suffocated and infuriated.

"You are the most powerful member of the Cloud Race in this tribulation, right? Then show me your real strength before I send you away."

Alerina was far too arrogant and had ended up losing before she even knew what was happening. However, Leonel's vision was far beyond this tribulation, he already didn't plan on coming in second place to anyone. The more important thing to him was learning more about the Cloud Race so that he could counter them better in the future.

Currently, the Cloud Race had infiltrated the Human Domain and their claws were sunk far deeper than Leonel knew, that much he was certain of. If he wanted to deal with them, would need something more tangible than what he had, and there was no better target than one of their absolute geniuses.

When Alerina heard Leonel's words, she gripped her spear so hard that her fingers bled and her figure trembled.

Clenching her jaw, she looked toward Leonel, the golden runes dancing in her Cloud Figure beginning to tremble as well.

She didn't say a single word. There was nothing else to say. She would make him regret the choice he had made to spare her and then humiliate her.

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Deep within the territory of Earth, all seemed peaceful. Ever since Leonel's return, everything had flowed smoothly, from the destruction of the Zoltene Faith and the four Great Families, to the subduing of the Thrusting Skies Sector and the expulsion of the Viola family, everything had gone perfectly.

The absence of Leonel didn't even seem to be felt and all things continued to run smoothly. But, all things would seem to be perfect until the day they weren't.

BOOM!

The explosion came suddenly and without the slightest hint of warning. Almost instantly, half of the Ascension Tree that acted as the Ascension Empire's capital was covered in a blinding pillar of flames that seemed to want to engulf it all.

Guards that had been on patrol hurried to figure out what was happening, only for their own comrades to suddenly turn on them without reason.

Several golden spears pierced through the backs of loyal Imperial Guards. They hardly had time to look back in shock toward faces they had known for decades before they collapsed to the ground with unwillingness, their consciousnesses fading to nothing.

All hell had broken loose, and though a call to arms was immediately sent to many of the highest noble families of Earth, to the surprise of many of the court ministers, some directly ignored the summons as though they had never received it at all, locking down their own territories and forming their own small countries, defecting from the Ascension Empire.

At that moment, on the second of Earth's two moons, Avalon, King Arthur sat on his throne, Queen Guinevere to his side. Before him, there was the smiling face of a member of the Laevis family, a young man with flowing golden hair and blinding golden eyes.

"It's time, King Arthur. The attack should have gotten underway already. You only need to do what the others have and Avalon will be yours. Close your borders, declare independents, and when the times comes, reject delegation.

"The Ascension Empire has humiliated the Pendragon family for far too long. You are a people of royalty, and yet you've been downgraded to the status of a mere Duke, I can understand your frustration.

"The Fawkes family haven't done anything to deserve the role they've had ever since they conquered Earth to begin with. Even now, they rely on a child-like prince to handle everything for them, and do you think that this is really that prince's doing?"

Arthur's gaze sharpened and the young man chuckled.

"Does it even make sense to you that a young man who's lost over two decades of progress in comparison to his peers can still be this far ahead? Who else do you think is working behind the scenes to ensure that all of this

happens if not the Morales? He and the Morales must really think everyone is a fool..."

The young man didn't realize that as he spoke, Arthur's grip on his throne began tighter and tighter while Guinevere's lips pressed into a line. Even so, if you looked at the latter more closely, it was clear that this was a practiced gesture to hold back her laughter.

"... We will expose them for the frauds they are and then everyone will turn on the Morales family as they should. When they face the pressure of the entire Human Domain, they will crumble like-!"

CRACK!

Arthur's throne shattered as he stood to his feet.

"He's just a child, huh...?! No one could possibly lose to him, right...?! He's nothing more than a convenient puppet on a string, hm...?! THEN WHY DID I LOSE TO HIM!?"

The young man was stunned but Arthur had already unsheathed his sword. Before he could react, he found himself looking at his own headless body, his eyes widened in shock.

Arthur sheathed his blade and began to pace about with a harrumph.

Finally, Guinevere couldn't hold back her laughter anymore and released a bell-like giggle.

Arthur's head snapped over. "What's so funny?"

Guinevere laughed even harder. "Husband, if you wanted an excuse to follow Leonel, you could find a better one than this, don't you think?"

Arthur's lip twitched. "What do you mean by that?"

Guinevere just laughed and didn't respond, causing Arthur to click his tongue.

"Whatever, let those idiots do what they want. I have no intention of getting on that little monster's bad side. They think the Morales are the ones pulling the strings so now that they're occupied by that summit they're holding, everyone else can run wild and free.

"Well, they're in for a rude awakening."

